

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of January 2, 2003, claims 1-4 and 12-17 were rejected, claims 5-11 and the title were objected to.

In response, claims 1 and 2 have been replaced by claim 18 and the various dependents of the remaining claims have been changed as appropriate.

A. Objection to Specification:

The title of the invention has been changed to be more descriptive. Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

B. 102 (b) Rejection:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,162,264). The Examiner has essentially alleged that Miyazaki et al. teaches what is disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

In response, claims 1-2 have been cancelled in favor of new claim 18. Applicants' new independent claim 18, claims a method of manufacturing a battery comprising a) a step of intermittently forming an electrode mixture layer including electrode active material on an electrode collector; (b) a step of attaching the terminal to an electrode collector exposed region where the electrode mixture layer is unformed; (c) a step of forming the electrolyte layer on at least a region where the electrode mixture layer is formed; and (d) a step of cutting the electrode collector between the electrode mixture layer which is intermittently formed.

This is clearly unlike Miyazaki et al., which fails to disclose or even suggest either a step of attaching the terminals to adhere to the collector layer which allows forming of an electrolyte layer on other regions excluding the region where the terminal is attached to either of the

electrodes. Miyazaki et al. discloses a process of producing an electrode plate by peeling a portion of an active material layer. As an example, referring to Miyazaki et al's Figures 8 and 9, Miyazaki et al. discloses terminals (7) that are attached to an active layer material (2) which is formed on top of a collector layer (1) that is peeled off which then a pressure heating body (9) is introduced. In the present invention, on the other hand, the terminals (11, 12) are adhered to the collector layer (25, 27) and does not require a peeling off process. Thus, unlike Applicants' claim 18, Miyazaki et al. fails to disclose or even suggests a process that allows the terminals to be attached to the collector of the electrodes directly which decrease the manufacturing process and prevent the solvents in the electrolyte to evaporate and thus increase the capacity of the battery. Accordingly, Miyazaki et al. fails to disclose or even suggest Applicants' claim 18.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

C. 103 (a) Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Akahira (U.S. Patent No.: 6,387,562). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

All rights and title to the present application and Akahira, were, at the time the invention was made, owned by Sony Corporation or subject to an obligation to assignment to Sony Corporation.

Accordingly, Akahira is disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the claims of the present Application.

Applicants' claims 3, 12-17 are allowable over Miyazaki et al. as discussed above. Because claims 3 and 12 depend from claim 18, they include all the limitations of claim 18. Because claims 13-17 depend from claim 12, they include all the limitations of claim 12. Thus, Applicants' invention is not render unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time when the invention was made ot combine the references as suggested by the Examiner to derive any of the claims 3, 12-18 and Applicants respectfully submit this rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner also has rejected claims 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Kaido et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,314,638). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

Applicants' claim 4 is allowable over Miyazaki et al. as discussed above. Because claim 4 depends from claim 18, it includes all the limitations of claim 18. Kaido et al. still fails to disclose or even suggest a method of manufacturing a battery by attaching terminals to adhere to a collector layer which allows forming of an electrolyte layer on other regions excluding the region where the terminal is attached to either of the electrodes. Instead Kaido et al. merely discloses a method of manufacturing an electrode plate of a nonaqueous battery. Therefore, Miyazaki et al. in view of Kaido et al. still fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claim 4.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims 3-18 are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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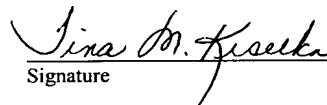
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